

Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins Study
Public Meeting Webinar #1
May 30, 2013

Summary of Questions and Responses

Question: Are Endangered Species Act (ESA)/species impacts of climate change and resulting regulatory scenarios being considered in the analyses for the Basins Study? Similarly, will the water supply and water demand assessments include ecosystem demands?

Response: The Planning Team is still working through an approach for addressing species impacts; in general, we will emphasize the use of ecological resource metrics for evaluating the specific risks and vulnerabilities. There may be ecological strategies that are developed to improve ecological resources and metrics.

Question: What tools will be used to model the water supply and demand balances, climate impacts, and adaptation strategies?

Response: The Basins Study will leverage tools that have been used in previous process such as the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) model for hydrology and demand assessment. The Basins Study will integrate WEAP with a system model approach such as a simplified CalLite Screening Model.

Since the Basins Study represents a higher, pre-appraisal level analysis, it will not be able to go into individual reaches of rivers to assess hydropower or ecological impacts.

Question: Will Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 water for refuges, as mandated under CVPIA, be considered as part of the water demand assessment?

Response: The Planning Team is still working through the baseline assumptions, but we will be considering refuge water supplies and demands and will report our conclusions publicly.

Question: Will future changes in land use be considered as the impacts of climate change are explored? How will this be done (i.e., how can you relate land use changes to stream flows)?

Response: The Planning Team is relying upon and using the California Water Plan Update 2013 Future Scenarios that incorporate both the urban and agricultural footprints, as well as population change scenarios. These Future Scenarios incorporate land use changes and will generate changes in hydrology outcomes and recharge. The Basins Study will leverage these scenarios and provide estimates of changes in demands as well as stream flow and hydrology process changes.